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BodyVox Contemporary Dance Company Comes to Cal Poly Oct. 5

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA – Cal Poly Arts presents the Portland-based BodyVox dance company Friday, October 5, at 8 p.m. in the Spanos Theatre. BodyVox will bring an innovative, moving repertory of 10 eclectic works – including two original films – to Cal Poly Arts audiences.

The New York Times enthused, “BodyVox approaches dance with a breezy freshness and simplicity that is all its own.” The NY Sun agreed that the company is “a welcome diversion from modern dance that takes itself too seriously. ”

A pre-show lecture, led by Cal Poly Dance Dept. professor Moon Ja Minn Suhr, will be held at 7 p.m. in the Philips Recital Hall.

BodyVox combines diverse forms of dance, media, and stage design to create theatre experiences that are evocative in multiple ways. Uplifting and often uproarious, this progressive dance company entertains audiences with breathtaking physicality, striking imagery, as well as moments of wit and whimsy.

Founded in 1997 to fulfill a commission by Portland Opera, BodyVox has grown in direct response to demand from artists and audiences in the dance community. Artistic Directors Jamey Hampton and Ashley Roland are distinguished artists on the world stage, formed by their years working as creators and performers with foremost dance companies such as Momix, ISO Dance, and Pilobolus.

One of the signature piece performed in the Cal Poly Arts program will be “Reverie.” Both complex and refreshingly simple, “Reverie” is inspired by the impressionist era and builds from an overriding belief in the power of beauty.

Conceived by Hampton and Roland in the months surrounding 9/11, the horror that unfolded on that day led to the creation of a show with beauty as its central theme.

Hampton recalls, “As we gathered in the studio that day and those that followed, we came to believe that a program with beauty as its central theme could be a powerful statement: art must prevail, humanity must prevail; culture, knowledge and freedom of expression, indeed beauty must prevail.”

Hampton and Roland have choreographed for a host of media, each winning Emmys for their choreographic work in television. They have created commissioned works for several dance companies, including Trinity Irish Dance Company, Ballet Pacifica, Oregon Ballet Theater, River North Dance Company, Ririe and Woodbury Dance Company.

The dance masters have choreographed music videos for Sting, U2, Pat Metheny, Soundgarden, Simply Red, John Fogerty and others, and choreographed for David Bowie’s arena rock production. They also co-choreographed and appeared in the 1998 Academy Awards show.

Tickets for the performance are \$32 to \$38, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088. Order on-line at www.pacslo.org.

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